#### Legalizing or functionally legalizing [marijuana/non-violent drugs] ignores that drug cartels are HIGHLY adaptable and resilient and will move into HIGHER-PROFILE criminal activities. **Astorga & Shirk 10**[[1]](#footnote--1)

Generally speaking, however, there has been little serious attempt to gauge the possible consequences of legalization for the United States, Mexico, or other drug-producing countries.74 Many pro-legalization activists assume that it will be a simple cure-all for drug-related crime and violence. Yet organized crime is highly adaptable and would no doubt venture into other high-profile criminal activities (such as kidnapping or pirated materials). Legalization is therefore unlikely to be a magic bullet in the fight against organized crime. Moreover, as with other controlled substances, like tobacco and alcohol (whose costs to society arguably outweigh any tax revenue they generate), legal recreational drug use represents a potentially serious harm, including traffic fatalities, overdoses, addiction, and other impacts (such as second-hand effects on unborn children). In the end, any effort to evaluate the merits of current policy versus legalization must conduct a careful accounting of the likely costs and benefits of either approach. Also, whether permitted or prohibited, more resources must to be directed to reducing drug consumption. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) estimates that in 2006 only 2.5 million U.S. citizens received treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, out of an estimated 23.6 million U.S. citizens in need. NIDA estimates conservatively that illicit drug consumption costs the United States more than $181 billion annually, and that the effects of addiction can be considerably reduced by a greater concentration on treatment.75 Hence, moving toward a policy regime that treats drug use as a public health problem could yield significant dividends, at significantly lower cost than both countries are currently paying in the war on drugs. Over the last two decades, there have been three successive generations of Mexican drug trafficking organizations. With each generation there has been a shift in the balance of power, and the emergence of different poles of dominance in Mexico’s drug trafficking underworld. First, there was a relatively uni-polar arrangement under Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo in the mid-1980s. Next, there came a fractioning of trafficking networks, and a brief bipolar moment as the Arellano Félix organization faced competition from Amado Carrillo Fuentes and his allies in the 1990s. Finally, there has developed an increasingly multi-polar constellation of trafficking organizations with varying specializations and capacities in the late 1990s and 2000s. In the process, like other global supply chains, organized crime groups operating via Mexico have become increasingly decentralized, diversified, and complex. Smaller affiliated criminal organizations play varying roles as franchisees, precursor and retail suppliers, local and wholesale distributors, cross-border smugglers and logistical facilitators, and enforcers, among other activities.76

#### Cartel SPSS's will be re-vamped for nuclear terrorism. Watkins 11[[2]](#footnote-0)

This demonstrates that DTOs are advancing in overseas trafficking, setting up labs with possible construction of SPSSs; WMDs will soon follow. It is also common knowledge that once a relatively wealthy country such as South Africa becomes a major transit route, it is not long before it becomes a major drug consuming country‖ 143 An opportunity will always remain for DTOs to conspire with terrorists and use SPSSs for WMDs. It can be chemical or nuclear in nature, causing an international disaster in the Western Hemisphere. The USG and GOC have to take into account the worst-case scenario when dealing with such innovative technology of DTOs. For example, President Barrack Obama believes The greatest threat to U.S. and global security is no longer a nuclear exchange between nations, but nuclear terrorism by violent extremists and nuclear proliferation to an increasing number of states.144 This same idea applies to DTOs that may be coercing with terrorists, planning a WMD destruction attack using nuclear or biological weapons via SPSS. According to James Carafano of the Heritage Foundation, The threat is pretty much global, Sri Lanka saw a lot of this and we have seen some from Hamas as well, so we know groups are borrowing tactics from one another.145 It is not a far-fetched situation. DTOs are motivated by profits, and if these extremists were to offer a huge amount of money for the technology and development of SPSSs, a coastal or harbor attack can easily be carried out within a few years in the U.S. The creativity and expansion of these vessels will ignite drug cartels to improve the technology of another transiting tool for cocaine—underground tunnels. In 2007, congress passed legislation providing a 20-year maximum sentence for the developing or financing of subterranean passages between the U.S. and another country.146 The threat of tunnels being used to transports human cargo and drugs concerned congress, because ―these passages were directly on U.S. soil and could be used by terrorists‘ organizations to smuggle in dangerous weapons.‖ 147 The proceeding in passing laws against SPSSs, were based on the same philosophy and guidelines. Drug smugglers operating and transiting SPSSs would be given a ―maximum 15-20 years sentence, since, theoretically, it can carry more dangerous cargo and present a threat to the security of the United States.‖ 148

Terrorism causes extinction. **Myhrvold '13[[3]](#footnote-1)**

Several powerful trends have aligned to profoundly change the way that the world works. Technology ¶ now allows stateless groups to organize, recruit, and fund ¶ themselves in an unprecedented fashion. That, coupled ¶ with the extreme difficulty of finding and punishing a stateless group, means that stateless groups are positioned to be ¶ lead players on the world stage. They may act on their own, ¶ or they may act as proxies for nation-states that wish to ¶ duck responsibility. Either way, stateless groups are forces ¶ to be reckoned with.¶ At the same time, a different set of technology trends ¶ means that small numbers of people can obtain incredibly ¶ lethal power. Now, for the first time in human history, a ¶ small group can be as lethal as the largest superpower. Such ¶ a group could execute an attack that could kill millions of ¶ people. It is technically feasible for such a group to kill billions of people, to end modern civilization—perhaps even ¶ to drive the human race to extinction. Our defense establishment was shaped over decades to ¶ address what was, for a long time, the only strategic threat ¶ our nation faced: Soviet or Chinese missiles. More recently, ¶ it has started retooling to address tactical terror attacks like ¶ those launched on the morning of 9/11, but the reform ¶ process is incomplete and inconsistent. A real defense will ¶ require rebuilding our military and intelligence capabilities from the ground up. Yet, so far, strategic terrorism has ¶ received relatively little attention in defense agencies, and ¶ the efforts that have been launched to combat this existential threat seem fragmented.¶ History suggests what will happen. The only thing that shakes America out of complacency is a direct threat from a determined adversary that confronts us with our shortcomings by repeatedly attacking us or hectoring us for decades.

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2. - MA @ Naval Postgraduate School (Lance J., SELF-PROPELLED SEMI-SUBMERSIBLES: THE NEXT GREAT THREAT TO REGIONAL SECURITY AND STABILITY, NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, June 2011, http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a547788.pdf) NAR \*notes: (SPSS) = Self-Propelled Semi-Submersible, (SPFS) = Self-Propelled Fully-Submersible [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
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